

Preface

Assalaamu 'Alaikum,

Each of us is entitled to choose and adopt the religion that satisfies our own spiritual needs, answers the question we have and directs us to the path we may wish to follow. However no one has the privilege to promote his own faith by running down those adopted by others.

Maulana Muhammad Ali Zanjibari believes instead that when making comparison of faiths, we should heed the words as contained in Isaiah 1:18 "*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord*" and this is what he sets out to do in his book "**Islam and Christianity: a Comparative Study**".

Born on September 9th, 1960 in Zanzibar, Muhammad Ali, could recite the entire Qur'an in its Arabic rhythm at the age of twelve. Maulana M.A. Zanjibari also had a sound secular education. He was a graduate of the Teachers' Training College and taught from 1981 to 1984 at a few government schools in Zanzibar, Tanzania. He was later awarded a scholarship to study in the Islamic Republic of Iran from 1984 to 1992.

In 1984, after performing the Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah) he went on to Qom in Iran. During the next seven year he studied Islamic Law, Comparative Religion, Theology, Quranic Sciences, Logic, Philosophy, Arabic and Persian.

He holds Diploma in Islamic Science (Hujjatiyyah Theological School of Qom) and a Master's Degree in Islamic Studies from the Qom Islamic Theological Seminaries. Maulana Zanjibari maintains a special interest in the study of comparative religion, in particular Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Judaism.

In Feb. 1992 he arrived in Guyana as a Muslim Missionary under the agency of the International Islamic Propagation Office. From 1995 to 1998, he served as the Missionary Director of the Institute of Islamic Studies in Guyana. He recently retired from his missionary work in order to devote himself to fulltime research and writing in all fields of religion.

Maulana Zanjibari subscribes to the belief that there is only one race – the human race, and there is only one religion – the religion of the One True God. It is in this context that he has engaged in a comparative

study of two of the world's major religions and it is hoped that all those who read his book will understand that his intention is not to offend, but instead to elucidate, educate and hopefully, integrate.

Maulana Muhammad Ali Zanjibari is married and is blessed with a son and two daughters.

Thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Yvonne L Teelucksingh

Trinidad, W.I

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